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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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JANUARY 15, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SAWYER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 9823.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9823) granting a pension to Martha F. Stebbins, have examined the same and report:

The report on which this bill was passed by the House is concurred in, and is as follows:

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9823) granting a pension to Martha F. Stebbins, submit the following report:

The claimant is the widow of Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins, M. D., formerly a resident of the city of Detroit, Mich., who was appointed by the sanitary authorities of the State of Michigan, to assist in caring for the sick soldiers then located in Mississippi at camps near Corinth, and he performed his duties devotedly until overwork and exposure caused his death, which occurred in July, 1862.

Your committee, believing this a just and meritorious claim, recommend its adoption and passage, and submit the statements of Col. Charles M. Lum, late of the Tenth Michigan Infantry, Alvin J. Cole, M. D., late surgeon Fourteenth Michigan Infantry, and Capt. John Kelly, Fourteenth Michigan Infantry, and ask these statements may be made a part of this report.

The claimant never remarried and is in needy circumstances, being advanced in years and with no means other than the daily labor for support.

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69 MONTCALM STREET, WEST DETROIT, MICH., May 7, 1890.

MY DEAR FRIEND: In addition to the affidavit which I have made in the matter of Martha F. Stebbins, which will be forwarded to you by Col. H. S. Dean, of the Twenty-second Michigan Infantry, I send this brief statement in regard to the valuable services rendered by the late Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins to the sick soldiers in Michigan regiments—those who were at the time under my command.

When the doctor reported to me at my tent, "Camp Big Springs," near Corinth, Miss., on or about the 18th or 20th of June, 1862—and where he quartered and messed with me—he seemed to be in perfect health, and at once entered upon the duty of visiting and prescribing for the sick, of which there were at that time between three hundred and four hundred in the camp and field hospitals and many more in the hospital at Farmington, Miss. All of the number of sick mentioned were from Michigan regiments. Diarrhea and typhoid fever were the two great causes. The fever, called by the doctors the "walking typhoid," was the most prominent of the two, coming suddenly, progressing rapidly, and in a majority of cases proving fatal. Soon after the fever set in the patient became delirious, requiring constant watching and attention by nurses, which service was done by the men who were unable to do any military duty.

To give you an idea how most of the regiments at that time were reduced in numbers by reason of sickness, I will state that on the 1st of May, 1862, I reported to Maj. Gen. John Pope with my regiment, numbering 986 men, and I believe all in good health. A few men were killed and wounded in the battle near Farmington and

siege of Corinth. After raising the siege we went into camp near Corinth, and during the latter part of June and the fore part of July my regiment could only report from 230 to 250 men for duty. Day and night we were burying men, and the ambulances and wagons were carrying such of the sick as could be carried, the sick of the division, to the hospital at Hamburg Landing, from whence they were taken by steamers to the general hospitals.

Dr. Stebbins came to us when we were in great need of medical skill and assistance. He worked faithfully, earnestly, and heartfully, both day and night, in hospital and camp, from the time of his arrival until he himself was stricken with fever on the 30th of June.

The last sick call he made was upon my brother David, who was very sick at that time, July 1. On the 2d the doctor became delirious, requiring constant attention and watching. On the 3d my brother died, and on the morning of the 4th of July Mr. L. B. Willard and two officers of the Fourteenth Michigan, on sick leave, started for Detroit with the doctor and the remains of my brother. Mr. Willard was obliged to leave the doctor at Cairo by reason of his increased illness.

I sincerely and firmly believe that the death of Dr. Stebbins was caused by his overwork among the sick in camp and hospital, aided by his arrival in a locality where the air and surroundings were always unhealthy, especially in midsummer months.

It was at Camp Big Springs where I received the foundation for the illness which became fully developed after the close of the war, and which has clung to me ever since.

Very sincerely, I remain your old friend,

CHARLES M. LUM.

Hon. J. LOGAN CHIPMAN.

June 13, 1890.

Colonel Lum, writer of the within, was a soldier of great merit, and is now a civilian of high character, universally beloved and respected.

I knew young Stebbins. He was a young man of unusual promise. All that is claimed in behalf of his widow as to his merits I know to be true.

J. LOGAN CHIPMAN.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, *County of Shiawassee, ss:*

In the matter of the claim of Martha F. Stebbins, widow of the late Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins, on the 29th day of July, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety, before me, a notary public within and for the county and State aforesaid, personally appeared John Kelly, late a captain in the Fourteenth Regiment Michigan Infantry Volunteers, aged sixty-four years, a resident of St. John's, County of Clinton, State of Michigan, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he was well acquainted with Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins, of Detroit, Mich., during his lifetime. That during the month of June, A. D. 1862, that the said Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins came from Michigan as a volunteer surgeon, and joined the command at Camp Big Springs, Miss., where the deponent was then on duty with his regiment. That the said Stebbins immediately entered upon duty as a surgeon, giving his professional services to the sick and wounded soldiers of the Tenth and Fourteenth Regiments Michigan Infantry, then at Camp Big Springs, Miss. That the said Dwight D. Stebbins was in good health when he joined the command, and that he continued in the active discharge of his duty as a surgeon until he was attacked by the disease then prevalent among the troops, known as the "walking typhoid fever." That he contracted this disease while in the line of duty as a surgeon, and while rendering valuable and much-needed professional service to our sick and wounded soldiers. That Dr. Stebbins grew rapidly worse, becoming delirious from the effects of the fever. The deponent, being at that time sick, was granted a sick leave that he might return to Michigan, and Dr. Stebbins, sick and in a feeble condition, was placed in the care of deponent on the journey from Mississippi to Detroit, Mich. The deponent says that Dr. Stebbins continued to grow worse, and that when about 2 miles below Cairo, Ill., he died. That the deponent procured a casket and placed the remains of Dr. Stebbins therein, and accompanied them to Detroit, Mich., where the deponent attended the funeral of Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins on the 22d day of July, A. D. 1862.

The deponent further says that he has no interest, direct or indirect, in this claim beyond that of seeing justice done the wife of one who died in a patriotic effort to alleviate the sufferings of the deponent's sick and wounded comrades.

JOHN KELLY,

Late Capt. Co. K, 14th Regt. Mich. Inf.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of July, A. D. 1890, and I hereby certify that the contents of the above and foregoing declaration, etc., were fully made known to the deponent before swearing, and that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim.

WM. H. PUTNAM,  
*Notary Public, Shiawassee County, Michigan.*

(Certificate on file.)

STATE OF IOWA, *County of Lee, ss :*

In the matter of Martha D. Stebbins, widow of Dwight D. Stebbins, M. D. On this 16th day of June, A. D. 1890, personally appeared before me, deputy clerk district court in and for said county, duly authorized to administer oaths, Alvin J. Cole, M. D., aged 53 years, a resident of Fort Madison, in the county of Lee and State of Iowa, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declared in relation to aforesaid case as follows: I was personally acquainted with Dwight D. Stebbins, M. D., formerly a resident of Detroit, Michigan, many years before the war of the late rebellion; always considered him a person of sound health; during the summer of 1862 he was appointed by the sanitary authorities of Michigan as physician, etc., to assist in caring for the comforts and relief of Michigan soldiers then located in Mississippi at "Camp Big Springs," near Corinth; said Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins joined the army at this point, I think, some time in June, 1862. He performed his duties assigned devotedly, nobly, and assiduously until from overwork and exposure he was seized with diarrhea, lasting several days, and then resulting in a low form of fever, which in those days was called "walking typhoid fever." He received treatment daily in his tent, which was located in the Tenth Michigan Infantry Volunteer regiment, by Brigade Surgeon Dr. Strawbridge, Surgeon Edward Batwell, of the Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Volunteers, and myself, as assistant surgeon of the Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Volunteers, until about the 16th of July or thereabouts. The Army receiving marching orders, Dr. Dwight Stebbins was sent in a critical and delirious condition North, being accompanied by Lieutenant Kelly and Lieutenant Vanstan, officers of the Fourteenth Michigan Infantry Volunteers, then going home on a sick leave of absence. Dr. Dwight D. Stebbins died after arriving home in Detroit, Mich., no doubt attributable to services and exposure received while in the active performance of his duties, when engaged as sanitary physician in Mississippi during the summer of 1862. My post office address is Fort Madison, Lee County, Iowa. I further declare that I have no interest in said case and am not concerned in its prosecution.

ALVIN J. COLE, M. D.,  
*Late Assistant Surgeon, Fourteenth Michigan Volunteer Infantry.*

STATE OF IOWA, *County of Lee, ss :*

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day by the above-named affiant. I further certify that I am in nowise interested in said case, nor am I concerned in its prosecution, and that said affiant is personally known to me, and that he is a regular practicing physician and credible person.

[SEAL.]

H. C. STEMPEL,  
*Deputy Clerk Dist. Court.*

The bill is reported favorably with a recommendation that it do pass.

